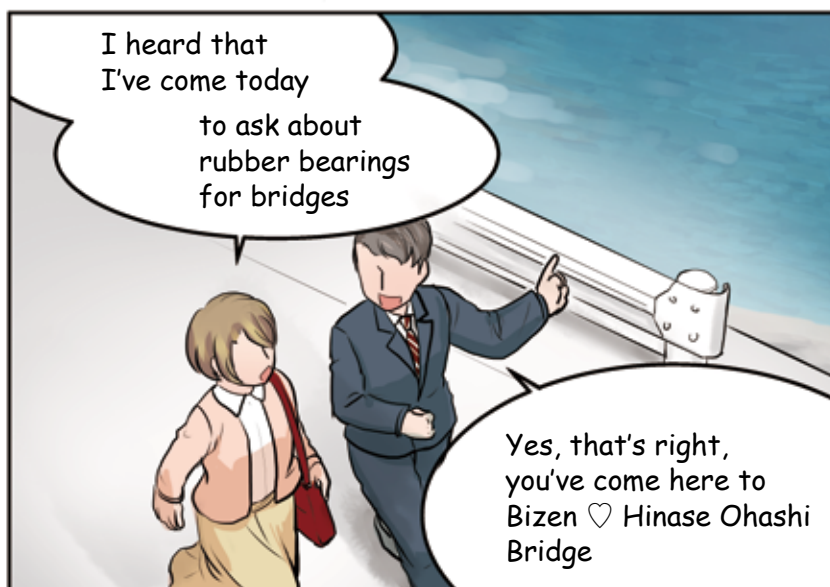
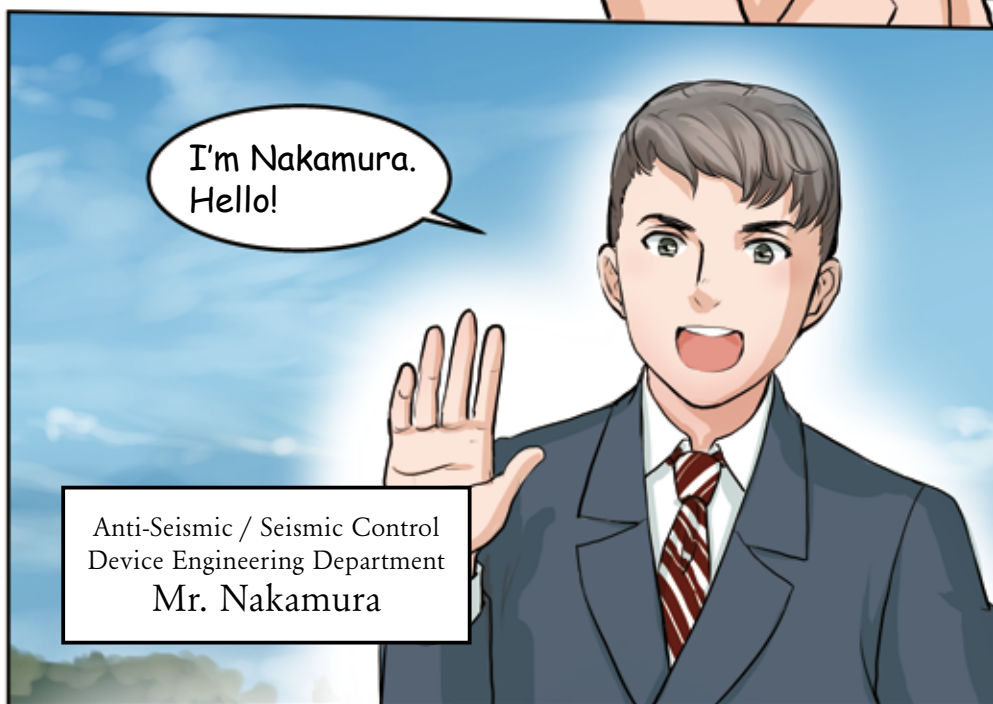
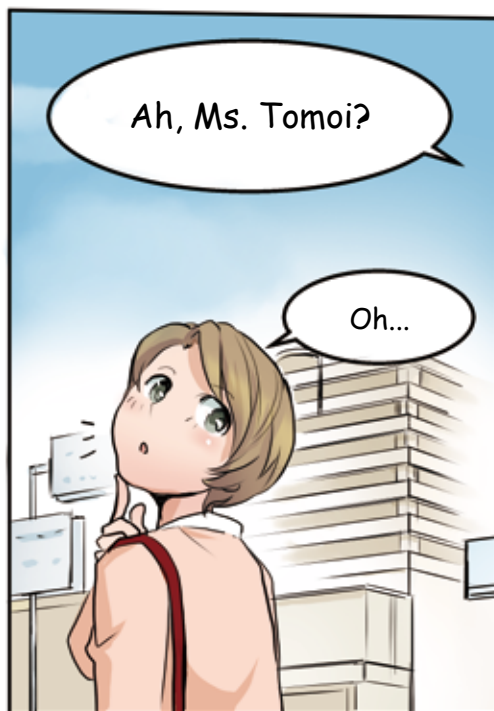
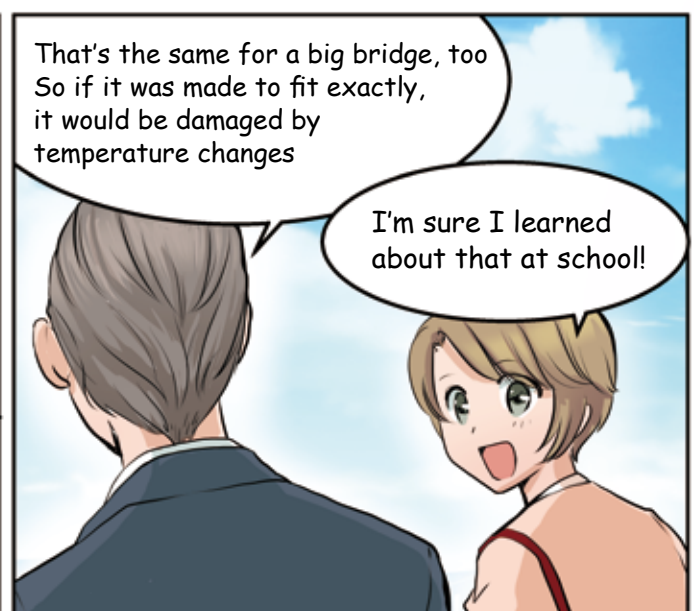
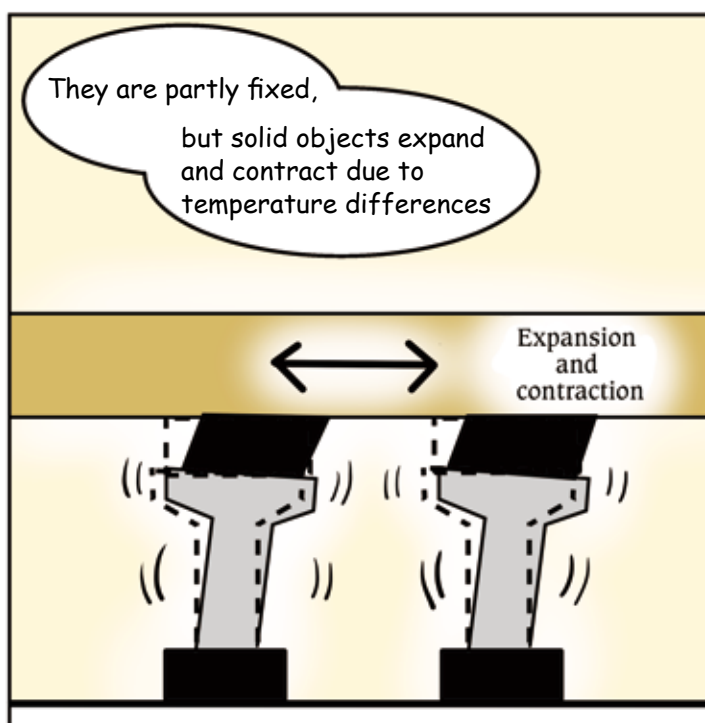
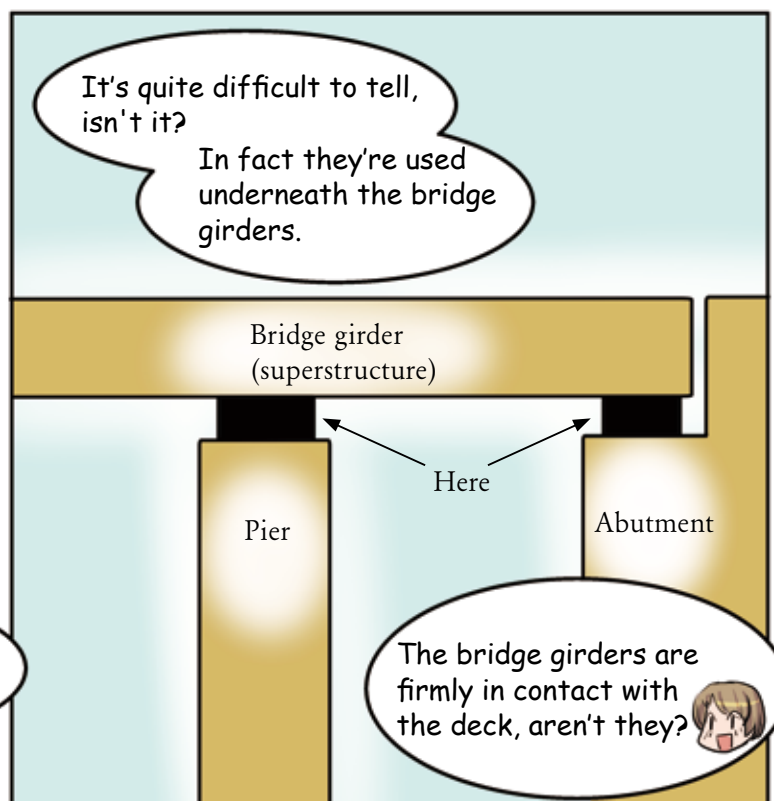
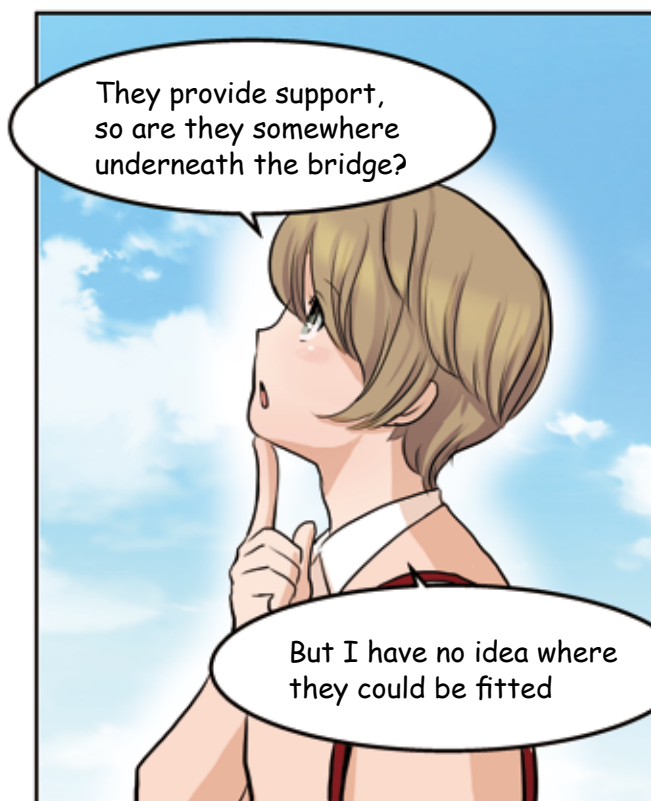
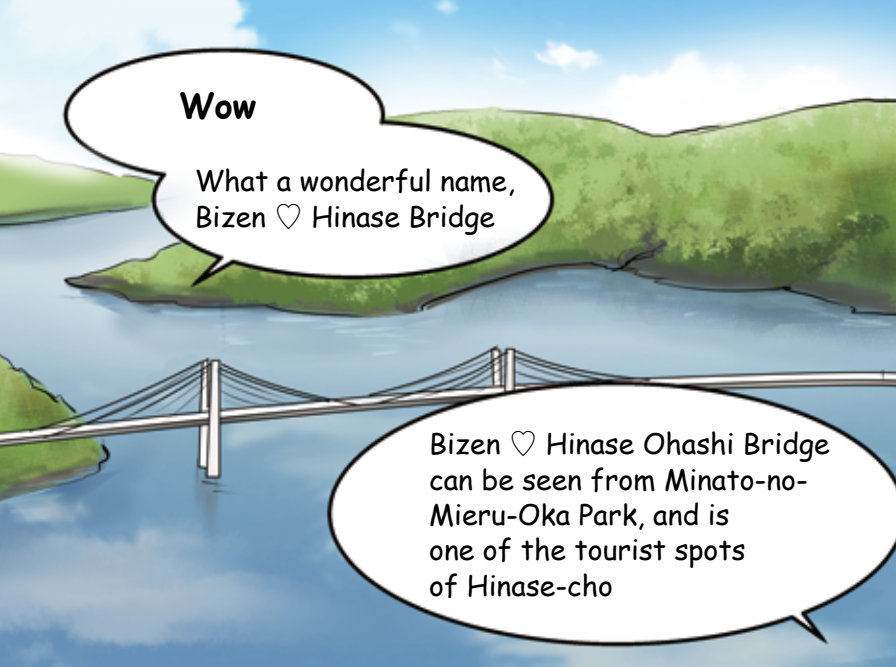


You thought you knew but didn't  
**Sumitomo Riko's Business**  
Episode 8: Rubber bearings for bridges







So the roles of the bearings are like this.



- (1) To support the load of the bridge girders
- (2) To conform to the displacement of the girders due to temperature changes
- (3) To conform to the rotation of the bridge girders due to the load of vehicles (live load)



(3) means the bearings allow for the distortion of the bridge girders when vehicles drive over the bridge



That's right  
And there's one more thing,  
although I hope it  
won't happen

That's their  
anti-earthquake function,  
in case the need arises.

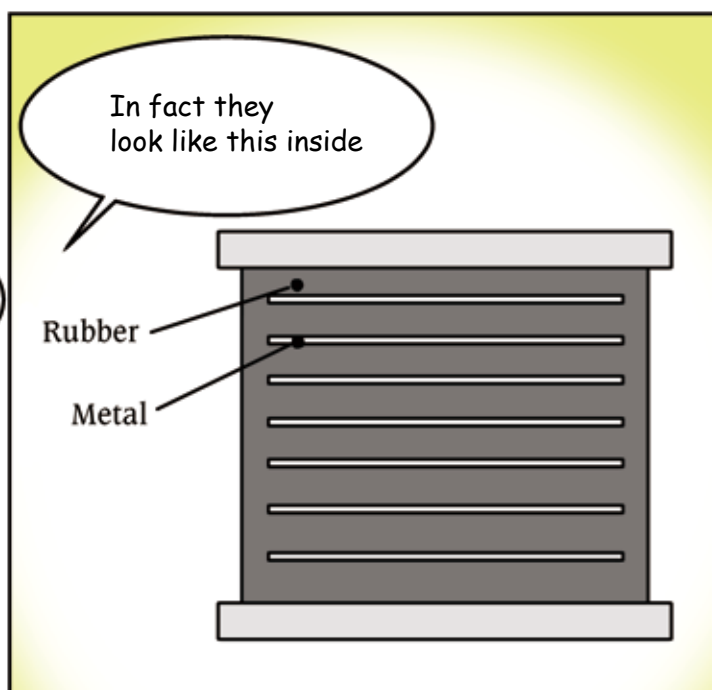
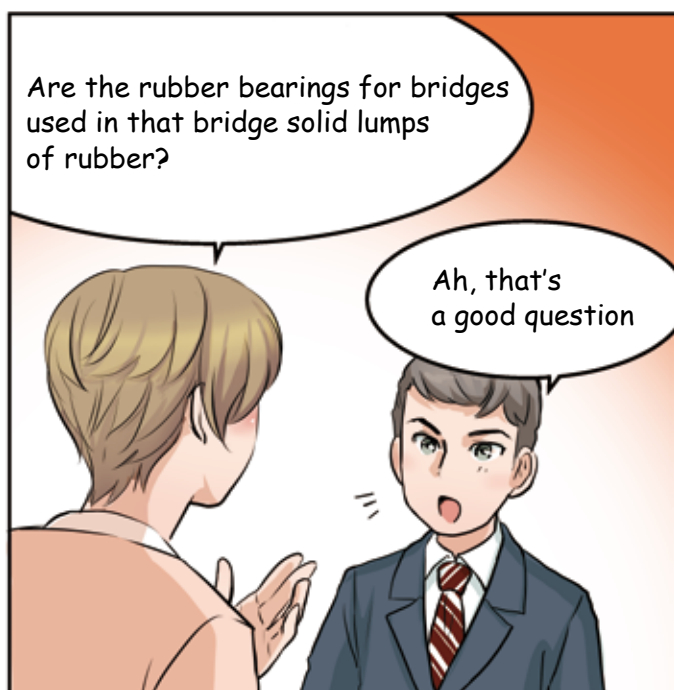
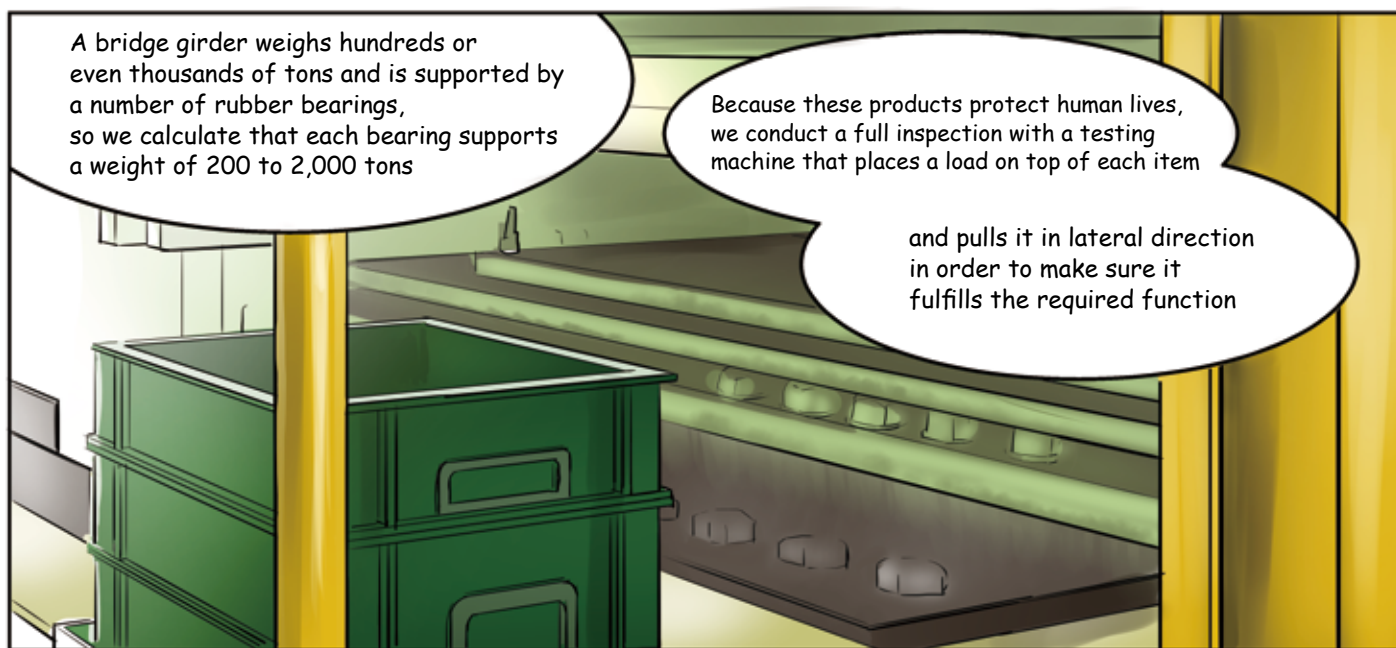
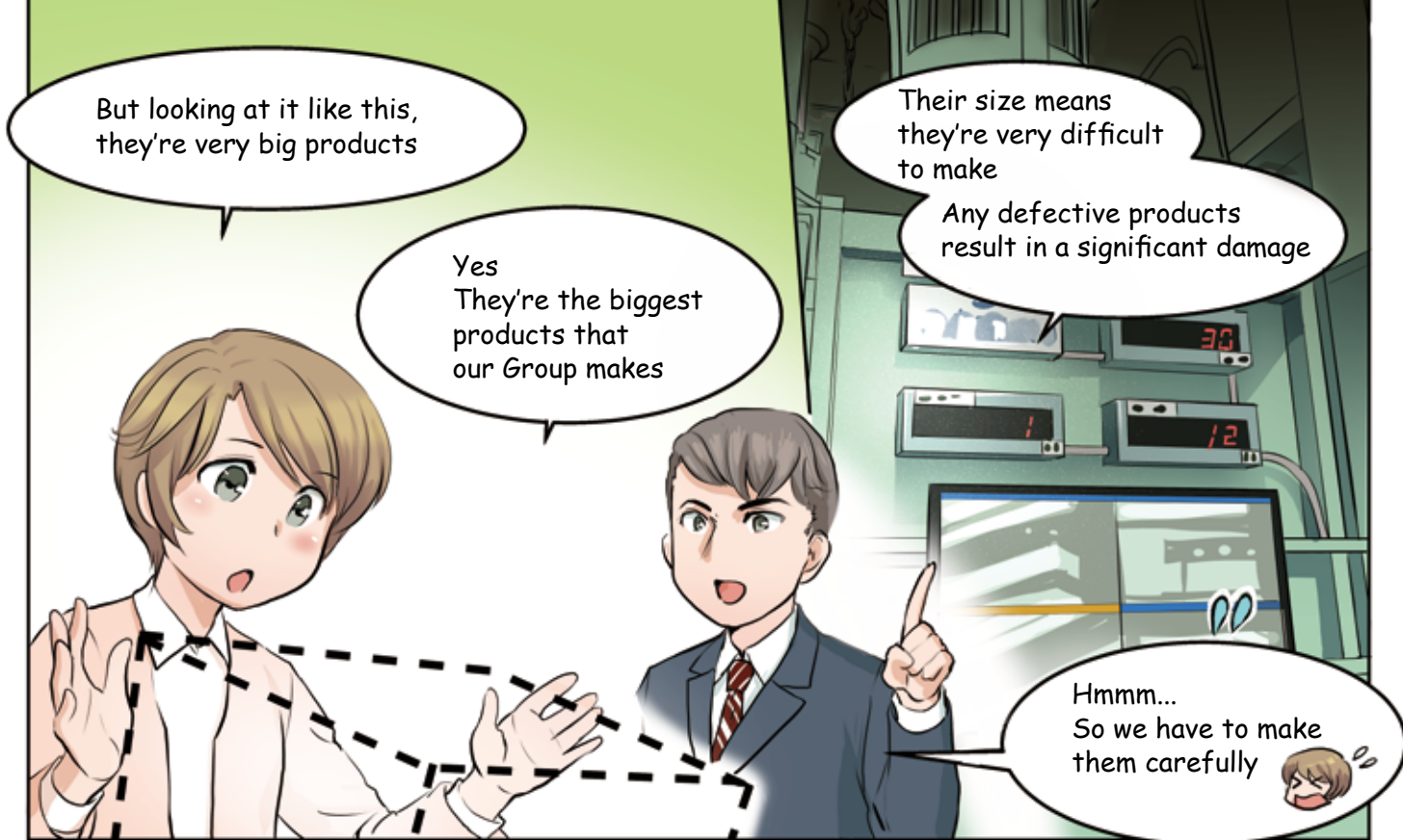
Rubber bearings have become more widely used since the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Lessons were learned from bridges that failed due to earthquake damage, and the number of bridges using rubber bearings has since increased.

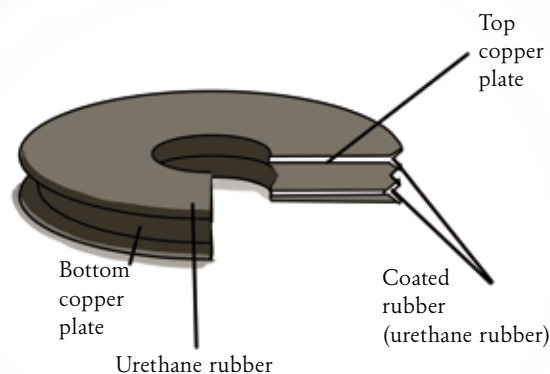
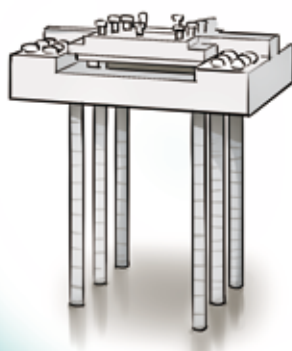
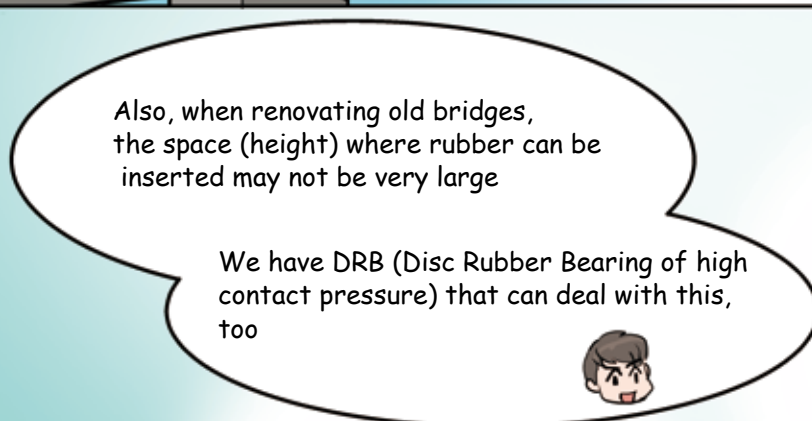
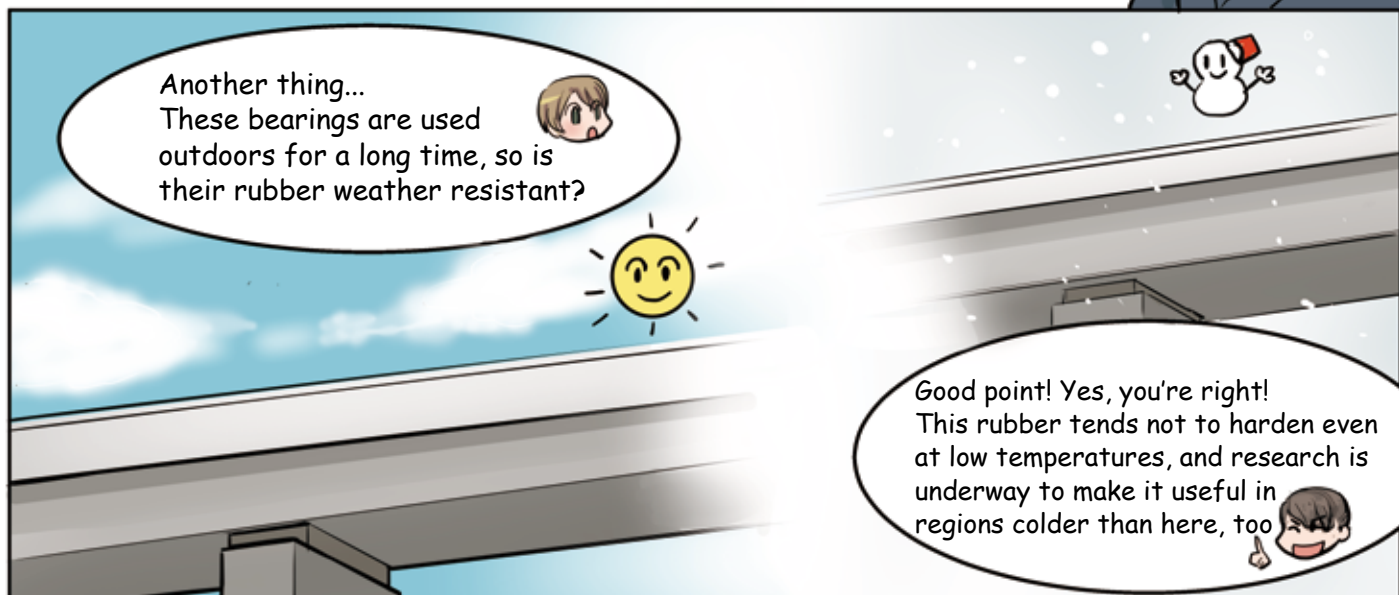
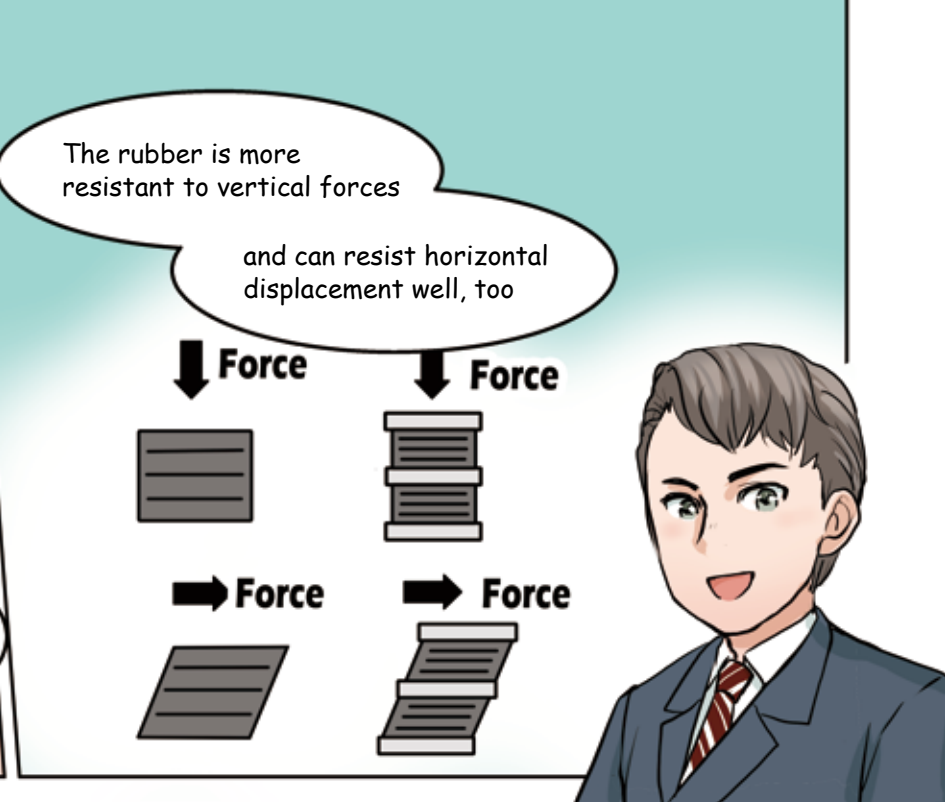
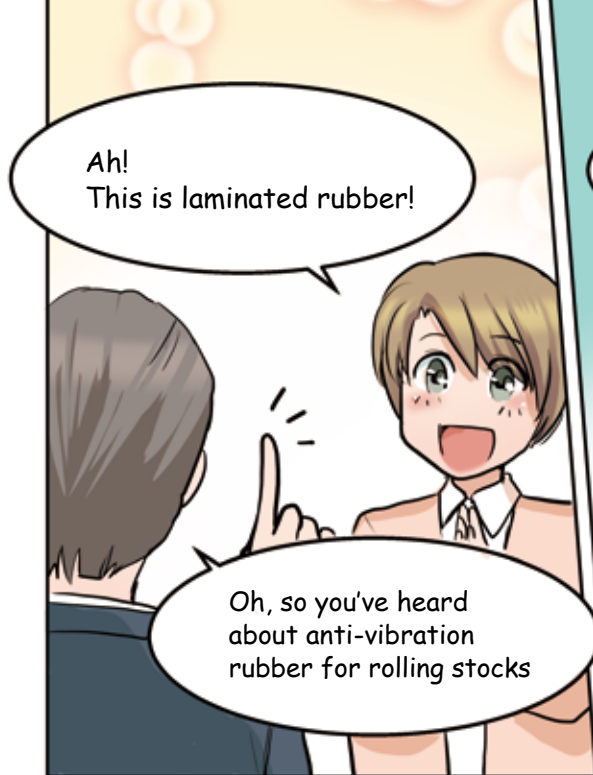
In the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, not one of the bridges actually using Sumitomo Riko's rubber bearings collapsed

I've explained it all simply,  
but the rubber that enables all this is  
the result of various research  
and numerous trials

Yes, I suppose it is,  
because we've  
accumulated technologies  
that ensure safety  
and reliability







By the way, we've looked at bridges until now, but is there another application you can think of?

Umm...  
Ah!

Expressways?

Right!

We were looking at bridges while talking, so it would be easy to think

these bearings are only used in bridges, but expressways have the same construction

Yes! So perhaps these products play a big role in a wide range of places?!

They do!

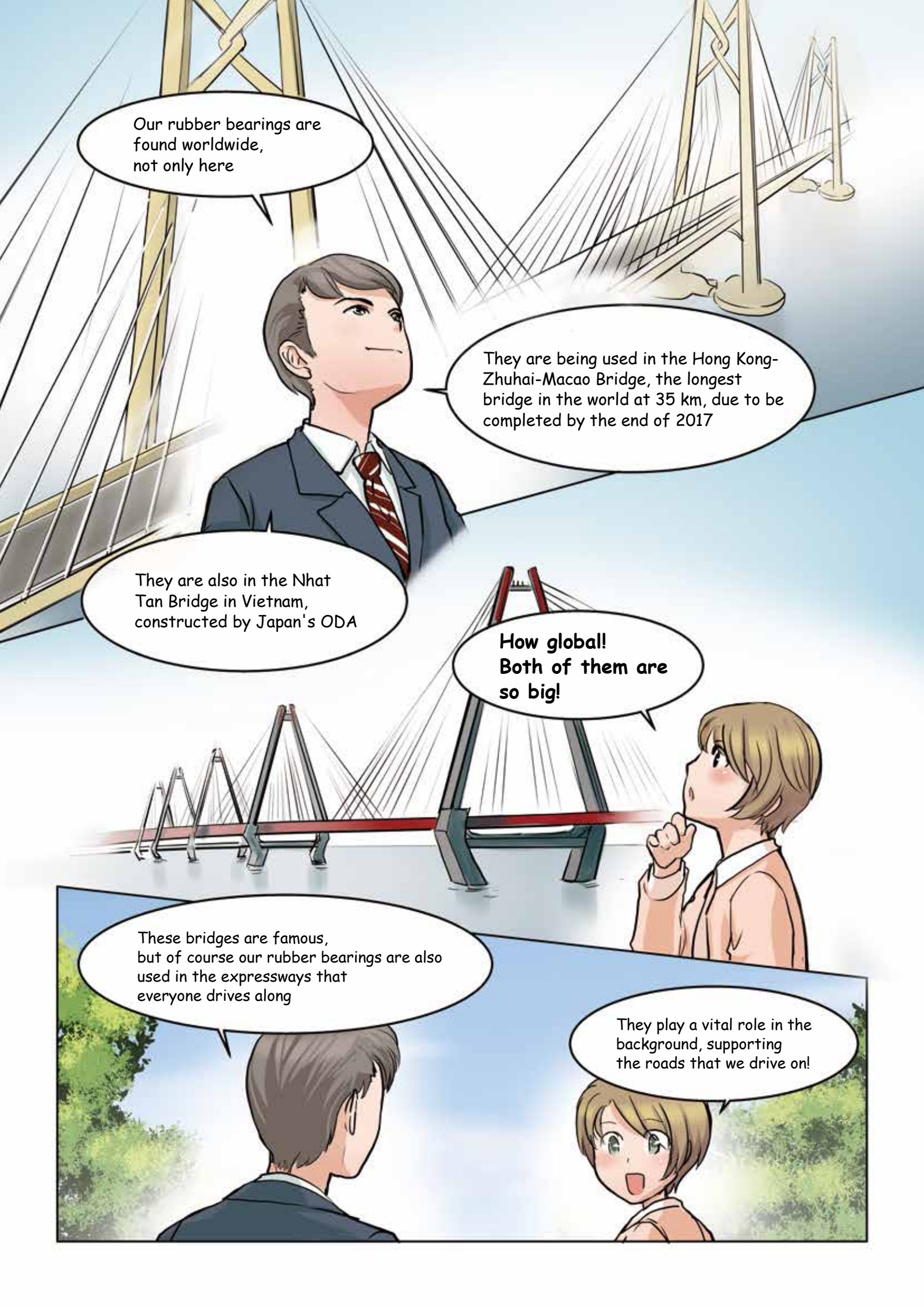
Rubber bearings for bridges ensure the safety, security and comfort of bridges and roads worldwide!

What amazing products!

It's because of their vital role

that we all work hard to develop perfect products with greater added value





Our rubber bearings are found worldwide, not only here

They are being used in the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the longest bridge in the world at 35 km, due to be completed by the end of 2017

They are also in the Nhat Tan Bridge in Vietnam, constructed by Japan's ODA

How global!  
Both of them are so big!

These bridges are famous, but of course our rubber bearings are also used in the expressways that everyone drives along

They play a vital role in the background, supporting the roads that we drive on!





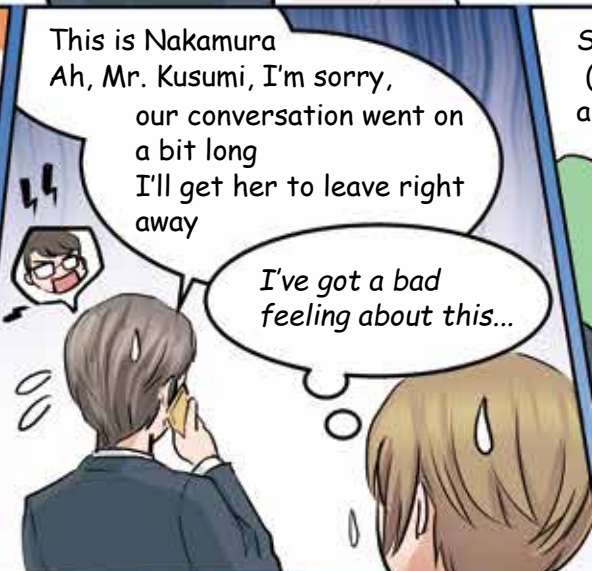
Knowing that our company's rubber bearings are being used gives me a special feeling...



Thank you  
I'll be pleased if all our employees feel like that whenever they pass a bridge



Oh, my phone



This is Nakamura  
Ah, Mr. Kusumi, I'm sorry, our conversation went on a bit long  
I'll get her to leave right away

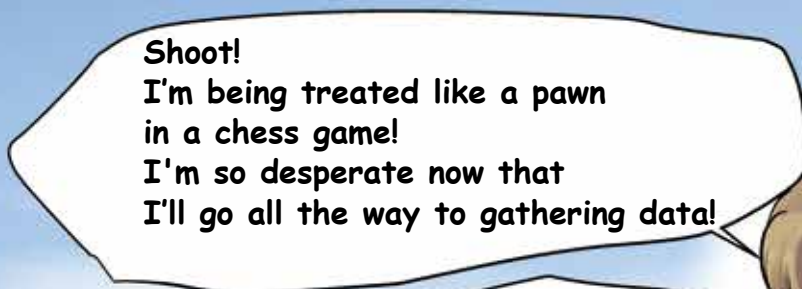
I've got a bad feeling about this...



Sorry! Here's some Kakioko (Okonomiyaki with oysters), a specialty of Hinase

I'll give it to you, just go straight to Hiroshima!

What?!



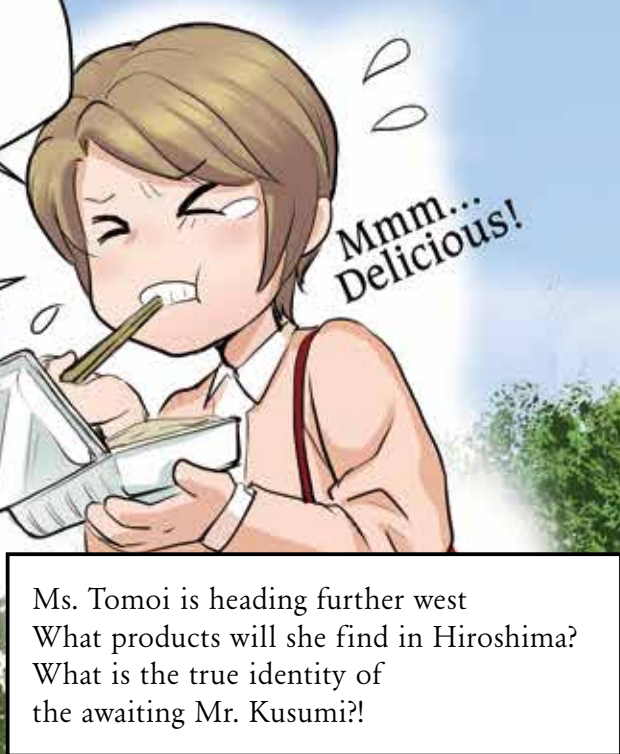
Shoot!  
I'm being treated like a pawn in a chess game!  
I'm so desperate now that I'll go all the way to gathering data!



But this is tasty (sob)



D...  
Do your best!



Mmm...  
Delicious!

Ms. Tomoi is heading further west  
What products will she find in Hiroshima?  
What is the true identity of the awaiting Mr. Kusumi?!